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Response to Non-Final Office Action
Docket No. A0856

REMARKS

Claims are 1-7, 10-17, 20-27, and 30-33 are pending and remain in the application.

5 The prior Office action responses of March 29, 2006 and July 19, 2006 are incorporated by reference.

Applicant thanks Examiner James Kramer for the telephone interview of January 18, 2007, in which the non-final Office action was discussed.

10 Claims 1, 2, 6-12, 16-22, and 26-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207, issued to Walker et al. ("Walker") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,885, issued to Johnson ("Johnson"). Applicant traverses the rejection.

15 The non-final Office action of October 20, 2006 fails to address claim amendments and remarks presented in the Office action responses of March 29, 2006 and July 19, 2006 regarding the obviousness rejection. Obtaining a prompt yet complete examination of a patent application is essential. MPEP 2106. In the previous Office action responses, Claims 8, 9, 18, 19, 28, and 29 were cancelled. Claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-27, and 30 were amended, and Claims 31-33 are new. The non-final Office action fails to reflect the amendments, as the Office action continues to reject the previous claim set of Claims 1-30. Responses have twice 20 been filed for this rejection, including clarifying comments per Examiner request.

25 Claims 3-5, 13-15, and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Walker as modified by Johnson as applied to Claim 1 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,608,620, issued to Lundgren ("Lundgren"). Applicant traverses the rejection.

30 The non-final Office action of October 20, 2006 also fails to address claim amendments and remarks presented in the Office action responses of March 29, 2006 and July 19, 2006 regarding the obviousness rejection. Responses have twice been filed for this rejection, including clarifying comments per Examiner request.

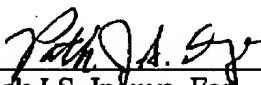
30 Applicant requests a proper examination for considering the claim

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amendments and remarks previously presented in the Office actions of March 29, 2006 and July 19, 2006. Further, Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance, as the claim amendments and remarks previously presented in the Office actions of March 29, 2006 and July 19, 2006 render Claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-27, and 30-33 5 allowable. Please contact the undersigned at (206) 381-3900 regarding any questions or concerns associated with the present matter.

Respectfully submitted,

10 Dated: January 19, 2007

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